

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283
Phone: (217)492-4295

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition as of March 16 was reported as 33% excellent, 63% good, and 4% fair. Winter wheat conditions have greatly improved during the last month. Fields are greening up across the State and appear to have made it through the winter in good shape. Rapid growth has been promoted by above normal rainfall and temperatures during the past few weeks, giving producers a concern over the damage a late hard freeze could do. Many producers have already applied spring fertilizer to their wheat, while others are waiting for the ground to dry out enough to support equipment. Standing water in the East and Southeast Districts may cause limited areas of wheat to drown out.

SOIL MOISTURE on March 16 was reported as 10% short, 71% adequate, and 19% surplus. Soil moisture supplies improved during the past month, most noticeably across the northern half of the State. Ponds have begun to fill and streams are once again flowing, decreasing the need to haul water in many areas. Tiles that have been dry for an extended period of time have begun to flow again.

LIVESTOCK are doing well with above normal gains being reported. No significant health problems have been reported aside from a few respiratory problems attributed to the temperature fluctuations. In most areas hay supplies are abundant and should allow producers to have carryover stocks on hand for future needs.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter Wheat Condition				Soil Moisture Percent		
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Short	Adq.	Surplus
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
As of March 16							
Northwest	15	75	10	0	25	60	15
Northeast	25	70	5	0	0	70	30
West	35	60	5	0	35	60	5
Central	15	70	15	0	5	80	15
East	10	75	15	0	0	45	55
W Southwest	30	65	5	0	10	90	0
E Southeast	50	45	5	0	10	80	10
Southwest	45	55	0	0	0	90	10
Southeast	0	100	0	0	0	65	35
State	33	63	4	0	10	71	19

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
February	1.49	2.04	2.56	3.41	4.56	3.74	4.19	5.74	5.33	3.67
Departure	0.25	0.24	0.82	1.57	2.71	1.82	1.67	2.76	1.96	1.53

FEBRUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

ILLINOIS RECORDED ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION FOR FEBRUARY 1990. A WARM PERIOD WHICH STARTED LAST MONTH CONTINUED AS THE AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE WAS 7 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. TEMPERATURES WERE ABOVE NORMAL DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH AS READINGS AVERAGED 7 TO 25 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. MAXIMUM READINGS CLIMBED INTO THE 50'S AND 60'S. A BRIEF COLD PERIOD BROUGHT THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURES DOWN BELOW THE ZERO MARK IN THE NORTH. PADUCAH (NEAR THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE HIGHEST MAXIMUM READING OF 72 DEGREES ON THE 15TH. ELIZABETH (IN THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT) RECORDED THE LOWEST MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 5 DEGREES BELOW ZERO ON THE 26TH.

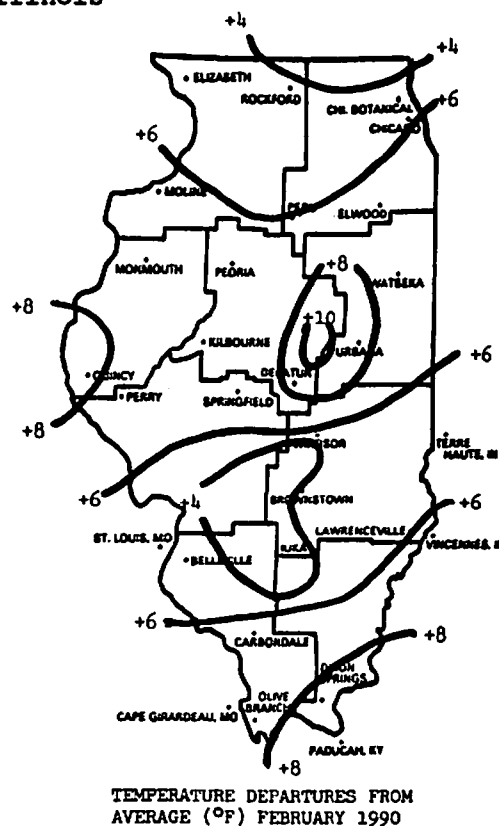
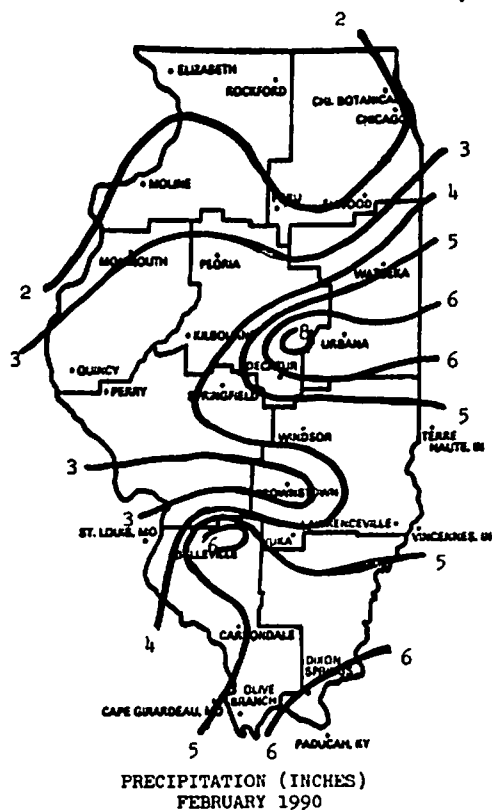
THE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION FOR THE STATE WAS 1.53 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL. THE EASTERN AND SOUTHWEST SECTIONS OF THE STATE RECORDED NEARLY 3 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION. THE LARGEST ABOVE NORMAL VARIATION WAS IN THE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT (2.76 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL). THE LEAST ABOVE NORMAL VARIATION WAS IN THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT (0.24 OF AN INCH ABOVE NORMAL). THE RIVERS AND CREEKS IN THE EAST-CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST ROSE ABOVE FLOOD STAGE. THE GREATEST PRECIPITATION FELL DURING MID-MONTH. PADUCAH RECORDED THE LARGEST MONTHLY TOTAL WITH 9.05 INCHES, OF WHICH 4.16 INCHES FELL ON THE 14TH AND 15TH.

SNOWFALL WAS ABOVE NORMAL IN THE NORTH. THE GREATEST SNOW FELL IN THE NORTHEAST. AMOUNTS OF 10 TO 12 INCHES WERE REPORTED ON THE 14TH AND 15TH.

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE REMAINDER OF MARCH IS FOR TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION TO BE ABOVE NORMAL.

THE 90-DAY OUTLOOK FOR ILLINOIS FROM MARCH THROUGH MAY IS FOR TEMPERATURES TO BE NEAR NORMAL AND PRECIPITATION TO BE ABOVE NORMAL.

Summary provided by The National Weather Service Cooperative Observers
NOAA, Rosemont, Illinois

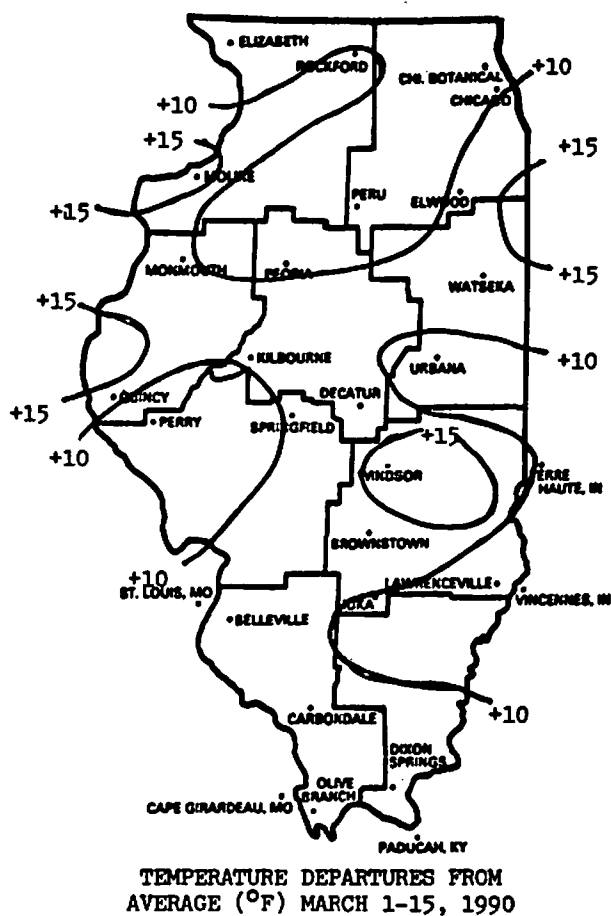
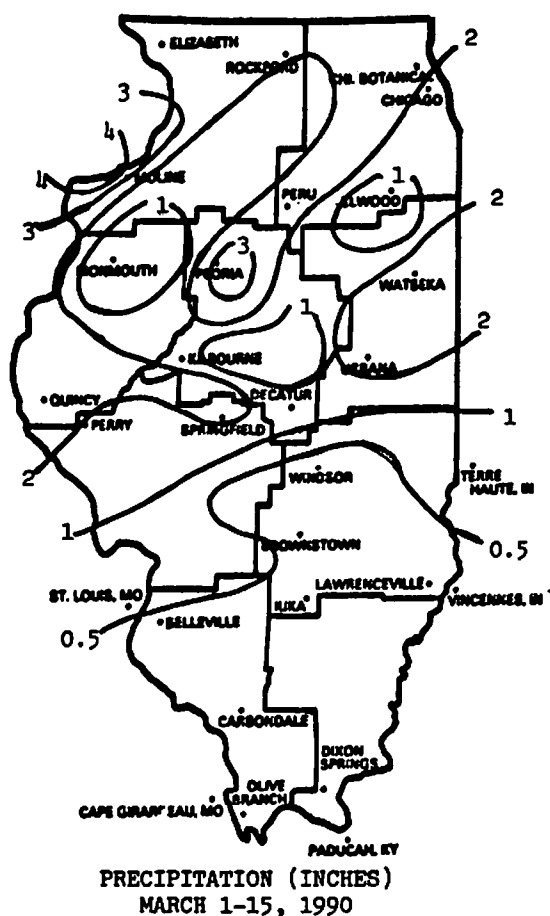


WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MARCH 1 - 15, 1990

CONDITIONS THAT WERE WARMER AND WETTER THAN NORMAL SUMMARIZE THE FIRST 15 DAYS OF MARCH. DAILY HIGH TEMPERATURES AVERAGED FROM AROUND 50 NORTH TO THE LOW TO MID 60'S SOUTH. LOWS AVERAGED FROM THE 30'S NORTH TO THE 40'S SOUTH. BOTH HIGH AND LOW TEMPERATURES AVERAGED MOSTLY 9 TO 15 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL ACROSS ILLINOIS.

WATER EQUIVALENT PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS FOR THE 15 DAY PERIOD AVERAGED AROUND 2 TO 3.50 INCHES CENTRAL AND NORTH AND 0.40 TO AROUND 1 INCH SOUTH. THIS WAS MOSTLY 1 TO 3 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL OVER THE CENTRAL AND NORTH BUT 1 TO 1.75 INCHES BELOW NORMAL SOUTH. THIS PROVIDED MUCH NEEDED SOIL MOISTURE TO THAWING GROUND OVER THE WESTERN PARTS OF THE STATE.

Information above provided by Midwest Agricultural Weather Service Center
Purdue University, West LaFayette, Indiana 47907



Weather maps provided by Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois 61820

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. BOX 19283
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62794-9283

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CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by
county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers.